

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01

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TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: FIRST FOUR DAYS OF 15TH TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
BOARD (TDB) MEETING

REF: GENEVA 6203

SUMMARY: DELEGATION STATEMENTS IN FIRST FOUR DAYS OF
UNCTAD TDB PLENARY SESSIONS (AUGUST 5-8) WERE MODERATE IN
TONE, BUT DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATES INSISTED ON NECESSITY OF
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES AT UNGA SEVENTH
SPECIAL SESSION AND UNCTAD IV TO IMPROVE LDC TERMS OF TRADE,
TO RELIEVE LDC DEBT BURDEN AND TO INCREASE FLOWS OF CAPITAL AND
TECHNOLOGY TO LDCS. ISRAEL IS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVER, AND IT
APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE NO ACTION TO SEEK PARTICIPATION OF PLO
IN THIS MEETING. NO RESOLUTIONS HAVE YET BEEN PROPOSED, BUT IT
IS EXPECTED THAT SEVERAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN FINAL WEEK OF
MEETING WHICH ENDS AUGUST 15. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST FOUR DAYS OF TDB PLENARY SESSIONS (AUGUST 5-8)
PROCEEDED AT A SLOW AND RELAXED PACE. NO RESOLUTIONS
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HAVE YET BEEN PROPOSED, AND DELEGATES' STATEMENTS HAVE

BEEN MODERATE IN TONE. ISRAEL IS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVER AND IT APPEARS THAT NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO INVITE PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING. U.S. REP DID NOT MAKE A STATEMENT IN FIRST FOUR DAYS OF PLENARY, AS OUR VIEWS ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN GROUP B STATEMENT. U.S. DEL WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 5. U.S. IS ALSO AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN CONTACT GROUP ESTABLISHED BY PLENARY TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 2, WHICH IS SUBJECT OF SEPARATE TELEGRAM. ACTIONS TAKEN AND STATEMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS ON ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. STATEMENTS IN PLENARY THUS FAR REFLECT GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG LDCS THAT RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS) HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENT, AND THAT A REVISED STRATEGY AND APPROACH SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND UNCTAD IV. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE ADVOCATED THE CREATION OF A STRONGER UNCTAD TO SAFEGUARD LDC ECONOMIC INTERESTS, ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND ROMANIA HAVE THUS FAR CALLED FOR THE MERGER OF UNCTAD AND GATT INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION. FINLAND, SOVIET BLOC AND CHINA HAVE JOINED LDCS IN CALLING FOR NEW SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BASED ON IDS, NIEO AND CERDS.

3. SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOR OF LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES - GHANA, UK AND RWANDA HAVE SPOKEN ON THESE TOPICS, AND NINE MORE DELEGATIONS INCLUDING U.S. ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE STATEMENTS ON AUGUST 11. WE WILL ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF UK DELEGATION, WHICH COVERED ALL BASIC POINTS IN U.S. POSITION PAPERS ON THESE ITEMS. UK SAID ITS RECENT AID HAS FOCUSED ON THE "POORER" COUNTRIES AND THAT UK FAVORS ASSISTANCE WITH A "SUBSTANTIAL GRANT ELEMENT" TO COUNTRIES WITH LESS THAN \$200 PER CAPITA GNP.

4. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - WE UNDERSTAND THAT G-77 WILL ISSUE DRAFT RESOLUTION AT UNCLASSIFIED

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PLENARY TO ENDORSE TD/B/557. U.S. AND FRG HAVE DRAFTED GROUP B STATEMENT FOR PLENARY TO EMPHASIZE THAT ACTION BY LDCS (AS PROPOSED BY TD/B/557) MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL ECONOMIES. STATEMENT ACCEPTS EXPERT STUDY GROUP PROPOSED IN TD/B/557 ON CONDITIONS THAT IT CONSIDER GROUP B VIEWS, THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP BE BALANCED, AND THAT IT COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH OTHER

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES COMPETENT IN THIS AREA.

5. COMMODITIES - EC DELEGATE SAID IN PLENARY SPEECH THAT COMMUNITY WAS AWARE OF VITAL ROLE OF RAW MATERIALS EXPORTS IN LDC ECONOMIES AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS SUBJECT RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION AT UNCTAD IV. EC DELEGATES SUGGESTED THAT THERE WERE TWO APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM: 1) RESTRICTING FLUCTUATIONS IN PRICES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES; OR 2) ADOPTING MEASURES TO STABILIZE EXPORT EARNINGS-- ESPECIALLY OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES. DUTCH DELEGATE WENT FURTHER THAN EC BY INDICATING THAT NETHERLANDS WAS "CLOSE TO ACCEPTING" UNCTAD'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES, BUT CAUTIONED THAT MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE STUDIED IN DETAIL BEFORE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN AT UNCTAD IV.

6. TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - MEXICAN DELEGATE SAID THAT REGIONAL GROUPINGS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD AVOID DISCRIMINATING AGAINST PRIMARY AND SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OF LDCS, AND CALLED ON EC NOT TO RESTRICT SPECIAL PREFERENCES UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION TO ACP COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO EMPLOYMENT AS VITAL TO LDC DEVELOPMENT, MEXICAN SUGGESTED THAT TDB GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ISSUES AFFECTING EMPLOYMENT, SUCH AS MARKET ACCESS FOR LDC EXPORTS, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES. VENEZUELAN DELEGATE OBJECTED TO PREVALENT USE OF LOOPHOLES BY MANY WESTERN COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT COMMUNIST STATES "DO LITTLE BETTER" IN THIS AREA. DELEGATE FROM PAKISTAN SUGGESTED TWO WAYS TO HELP COUNTRIES MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSAS) BY OIL AND FOOD PRICES INCREASES: 1) DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD WAIVE TARIFFS ON IMPORTS FROM MSAS ON TEMPORARY BASIS; AND 2) THE IMF SHOULD SELL ITS GOLD STOCK AND USE PROFITS

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TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ON SOFT TERMS TO MSAS.

7. NAMIBIA - BY CONSENSUS, ACHIEVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION, UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WAS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER.DALE

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